

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

J. F. JOHNSON Editor & Publisher
 MISS EMMA P. JOHNSON News Reporter
 L. A. WISE Staff Photographer

Make all checks payable to and mail to:

THE FUTURE OUTLOOK

P. O. BOX 20331—GREENSBORO, N. C. 27420
 PHONE 273-1758

Second Class Postage Paid at Greensboro, N. C.

10c Per Copy Published Weekly \$6.00 Per Year

VACATION TRIPS

Vacation time is approaching for school teachers, students and quite a few industrial workers. They are making preparations to go on a geographical trip. These trips are planned to gain first hand information of what is going on in other states and countries. Many go on trips to increase their vocabularies and knowledge, especially teachers who are in the field of science, economics and history. They have a lot to bring back to the classroom students about what they observed in other states and countries. Of course, as to the teachers, many will have to continue teaching on the college level. Some just go away for a rest.

Now as to the students in most cases, they spend part of the summer season away with their relatives, usually with their grandparents.

Some of the grandparents still live in small towns in rural areas or small farms. Time has changed to such an extent that one cannot tell the living conditions in the rural areas from that of the city.

Just about all means of industry is done by electricity and machinery, even milking cows. Therefore, the children do not have as much to tell as our foreparents did during the wagon, horse and buggy and oxen era. There are a few saw mills for timber. All of the trees are sawed down by a machine and carried to the mills by trucks. All of the cultivating of plants is done by machinery. There is a little change which the students can tell when they return from their vacations as to what they observed on their trips.

We are not prepared to name all of the industry changes since our forefather's day. Transportation on vacation, particularly for going abroad is by airplanes. One may get to some of the foreign countries as quick as one can travel through two states in any make of automobile. For example, a person starting from the Greensboro Airport to Atlanta, Georgia, and a person boarding a jet plane to Paris, France, may reach their destinations about the same time.

First Aid—It matters not if you are going on a vacation or if you spend your vacation at home, be aware of how to protect yourself from any misfortunate injury or illness.

When traveling, by all means, take your first aid kits with you and your supply of medicine prescribed by your physician. Be very careful of who you make friends with and places they invite you to go to for a good time.

In traveling in an automobile, be sure to take a rest and have some type of refreshments every 100 miles. There are resting centers on every highway. Take advantage of them when needed. There are even rest rooms on buses. Have a check-up with your doctor before taking a trip.

When going to a convention or large gathering for a day, stop at one of these resting centers on the highway and change your clothes and refresh yourself a few miles from your destination, so when you arrive, you can avoid the crowds using the facilities, which in many cases are unsanitary. In going on a vacation in your own car, be sure you have it checked by a well-trained mechanic. Start on your journey in time. Give yourself one hour for every 50 miles and gauge your speed in proportion to the number of miles you are traveling. Study the road map thoroughly and always travel on the main highway if you are going on a long journey.

Before starting, consider 24 hours for packing your belongings, so you won't leave anything needed and also give yourself the same length of time for packing for your return. Try to return on the same highway you went on if you were successful on your trip going.

DRIVE SANELY

This Week's Sunday School Lesson

THE CHURCH LIVES BY THE BIBLE

What Is Our Concern?

"Mr. Jones, that's a fine garden you and the Lord have made."

"You should have seen it when the Lord had it by himself."

Both parts of this conversation are half-truths. Gardens are made both by the labor of men and by the gift of God. The Lord won't keep the weeds out of a garden, but Mr. Jones would have some problems producing rain or creating the flowers he plants in his garden. Half-truths always confront us with a question of priorities. In garden making, whose work is of primary significance—Jones's or God's?

Similarly, our lesson title states one part of a larger truth; and we can understand the part only in relation to the whole. In one sense the church draws its life from the Scripture. In another it does not. Thus we are faced with the basic question, By what does the church live?

We can give no single answer. The church lives by many things. Thus the matter becomes one of priority. What is the order of importance of the things by which the church lives? How does the Bible fit into this system of priorities?

"Man does not live by bread alone" (Deuteronomy 8:3)—But he will not last long without it. Can we say that the Bible is the bread of the church — of which Christ is the life?

Before You Read the Scripture

This is the first of three lessons in a unit on "The Significance of the Bible for Faith."

I Timothy 4:11-16. This letter seems to belong to a time later than that of Paul. The letter implies a more definitely structured church organization than existed in Paul's day. The problems discussed were crucial for the second-century church. Moreover, the language used is much different from that in letters we know to be Paul's.

For reasons such as these, most scholars believe that this letter was written by a successor of Paul who was concerned to help the church of his day remain true to the faith Paul had taught. He was writing to young men who worked under his authority much as Timothy had worked under Paul. Therefore he wrote under Paul's name to convey to the "Timothys" of his own day the warnings and instructions he felt Paul would have given them.

First Timothy was written primarily to combat the influence of false teachers. The writer lashed out against their lies, deceit, and hypocrisy. (4:1-10) He then contrasted their attitude with the kind of ministry he expected from "Timothy" (Verses 11-16)

Verse 14 refers to the ceremony of the laying on of hands, an ancient symbol for the giving of a spiritual gift. (Deuteronomy 34:9) The gift of teaching and ministry, which this ritual symbolized, was on no account to be neglected or debased. (Verses 14-16)

Ephesians 3:7-10. The author

of Ephesians considered his ministry a gift of God's outgoing, saving love. (3:7) The "saints" of verse 8 were not persons of unusual piety or miracle-working power. They were those who had experienced God's saving grace. "Saint" therefore means 'member of the church.'

"The mystery" and "wisdom of God" (verses 9-10) are technical terms referring to the meaning of history and human experience. The divine plan, governing the movement of history, was that Jews and non-Jews should be united in fellowship with the same God and, therefore, in brotherhood with one another. (2:11-22) The accomplishment of this goal was "the eternal purpose" of God—now coming to realization in Jesus Christ. (3:11)

The ancient world believed in the existence of mysterious super-human forces — "the principalities and powers" — hostile to God. These beings were in control of the present evil age. (Compare Romans 8:38; Ephesians 6:12.) The good news that mankind was becoming one in Christ put these malignant powers on notice that their domination over men would soon be finally broken. (Colossians 2:15)

Colossians 3:16. "The word of Christ" is not the Scripture of the New Testament but the living power of Christ proclaimed in the preaching of the church. The verse does not refer to the memorizing of Scripture. It prays that Christ's spirit will find a home in the hearts of the congregation.

The coming of the word of Christ has two results. First, it produces mutual concern and brotherly interaction among those who share it. Second, it creates a profound sense of joy and thankfulness which expresses itself in song. The "psalms" are from the Old Testament. The "hymns" may be poetic compositions such as Luke 1:46-55. "Spiritual songs" composed spontaneously by gifted persons during worship.

These passages refer to the Scriptures only in passing, if at all. (See also the Psalms passages for this lesson.) This fact suggests that it is not the Bible by which the church lives, but the creative power of God and the living presence of Christ. The life of the church is the grace of God.

What the Scripture Says

The Scripture for today is 2 Kings 22:3 through 23-25; Psalms 118:26-29; 130; Ephesians 3:7-10; Colossians 3:16; I Timothy 4:11-16. Selected verses are printed below. See Home Bible Study suggestions in the back of the quarterly. I Timothy 4:11-16

11 Command and teach these things. 12 Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example, in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 13 Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands upon you. 15 Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all

may see your progress. 16 Take heed to yourself and to your teaching; hold to that, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. Ephesians 3:7-10

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to make all men see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; 10 that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

Colossians 3:16

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Memory Selection:

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in all wisdom, and you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

—Colossians 3:16

How We Understand The Scripture

The young pastor to whom First Timothy was addressed had to combat dangerous errors in the church at Ephesus. (1:3) His leadership brought him under attack and hostility. He experienced the discouragement and sense of failure that such treatment always creates. First Timothy 4:11-16 advises the harassed youth to cope with his situation at three levels.

1. Don't meet hostility with hostility. His every word and action ought to be an example of love at work. They should exemplify and express his faith. (Verse 12)

2. Do your job. His job was to read and explain the Scriptures to the congregation, to preach, and to teach. (Verse 13) He should get on with the task. This might not silence his opponents, but it would discharge his responsibility.

3. Be true to the gift God gave you. God had given "Timothy" a new life and the task of ministering in the church. Regardless of opposition, he was never to deny his gift or let it lie unused, for his gift was his life. (Verse 14)

God's Gift

The author of Ephesians 3:7-10 also concentrated on the gift God had given him and the world in Jesus Christ. The gospel of which he was the servant or minister (verse 7) was not words in a book but union with the living Christ. (Galatians 2:20) By it he lived; by it the church lived; and by it mankind would eventually find its true life.

Precisely the same point is made in Colossians 3:16. The word of Christ is an experience, not a document. It lives in the congregation. It does not rest between the covers of a book on the pulpit.

We find a similar idea in 2

(Continued on Page 3)